What is claimed is:

1.   An optical low pass filter, comprising:

a first birefringence plate that divides an incident ray

into two rays;

a second birefringence plate that divides an incident ray

into two rays; and

a third birefringence plate that divides an incident ray

into two rays,

wherein said first birefringence plate, said second

birefringence plate and said third birefringence plate are

cemented to each other, light passed through said first

birefringence plate passing through said second birefringence

plate and then passing through said third birefringence plate,

wherein a separation angle θs, representing a difference

between separation directions in which adjacent ones of said

first, second and third birefringence plates divide their

respective incident rays, satisfies a condition:

46° ≤ θs ≤ 60°.

2.   The optical low pass filter according to claim 1, wherein

the separation angle θs satisfies a condition:

46° ≤ θs ≤ 52°.

3.   The optical low pass filter according to claim 1,

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wherein when a separation amount, representing a distance by which the two rays divided by one of said first, second and third birefringence plates are away with respect to each other, is denoted by δ1 for said first birefringence plate, the separation amount for said second birefringence plate is denoted by δ2, and the separation amount for said third birefringence plate is denoted by δ3, said optical low pass filter satisfies a condition:

$$\delta1 = \delta3 \neq \delta2.$$

4.   The optical low pass filter according to claim 3, wherein the separation amount for said second birefringence plate δ2 satisfies a condition:

$$0.5 \cdot \delta1 \leq \delta2 < 1.0 \cdot \delta1.$$

5.   The optical low pass filter according to claim 1,

wherein the separation angle θs is defined by a following equation:

$$\theta s = |\theta1 - \theta2| = |\theta2 - \theta3|,$$

where θ1 is an angle that the separation direction in which said first birefringence plate divides its incident ray forms with respect to a horizontal direction corresponding to a longer side of a rectangular shape of an imaging element to be used together with said optical low pass filter,

$\theta 2$ is an angle that the separation direction in which said second birefringence plate divides its incident ray forms with respect to the horizontal direction, and

$\theta 3$ is an angle that the separation direction in which said third birefringence plate divides its incident ray forms with respect to the horizontal direction.